

B¹
predetermined straightness, the straightness of which is smaller than the straightness
of said base material; and

heating and elongating said base material along an axis of said standard rod, said
vertical inclination of which is adjusted, to generate said glass rod.

(Please add claim 14 as follows:)

B²
14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein material of said standard rod is
different from the material of said glass base material.

Remarks

Claims 1-10 remain active. New claim 14 is added. Favorable reconsideration is
requested.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP-10-114536.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first
paragraph, by excluding the phrase "said straightness of which is different from a straightness
of said base material." As described on page 17, lines 17-27 of the present application, a base
material having a "smaller" straightness value, such as within 0.5 mm, is straighter than a
base material having a larger straightness value. Thus, the expression "the straightness of
which is smaller than the straightness of said base material" is used in claim 1. No new
matter has been added.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over JP-10-114536.

This rejection is based on the Examiner's interpretation of the phrase
"standard rod" as reading on the glass rod of the reference. This ground of rejection
is overcome by the present amendment.

U.S. Appl. No. 09/522,020
Yamamura et al.

As the Examiner implied, JP '536 does not actually disclose or suggest the kind of standard rod used in this invention. As amended, the standard rod is recited as "the straightness of which is smaller than the straightness of the base material." Also, the standard rod has "a predetermined straightness," which is clearly different from the straightness of the base material. Thus, the stand rod and the base material are different.

No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the case is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

By 

Robert W. Hahl
Reg. No. 33,893

RWH
1600 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102
Phone: (703) 905-2251

RWH/amx

Appendix

1. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing a glass rod, which is a parent material of an optical fiber, comprising:

adjusting an axis of an apparatus for elongating a base material, which is a parent material of said glass rod, by adjusting a vertical inclination of a standard rod having a predetermined straightness, [said] the straightness of which is [different from a] smaller than the straightness of said base material; and

heating and elongating said base material along an axis of said standard rod, said vertical inclination of which is adjusted, to generate said glass rod.

14. (New)